



Rural Partners...

a newsletter of the Indiana Rural Development Council

Summer 2002

IRDC to Host the 2002 National Rural Development Partnership Conference

Rural economic development professionals from across the U.S. will converge on the Hoosier state this summer to discuss how to strengthen the backbone of America – its rural communities. The

meeting will be held in the heart of rural southern Indiana, the French Lick Springs Resort, August 25-August 28, 2002.

“Orange County is the ideal place to showcase Indiana’s commitment to rural communities at the 2002 National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP) Leadership Conference,” says Judy Gray, executive director of the Orange County Economic Development Partnership, and vice chair of the Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC). “We will take conference-goers to several rural communities in the area to see first-hand how Hoosiers have tackled issues impacting rural Indiana.”

Mission

The Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC) is a partnership of local, state, federal, profit and not-for-profit stakeholders serving Indiana communities. The IRDC’s purpose is to coordinate efforts of citizens and governments to meet the economic and social needs of rural Indiana.

Goals

- To provide a means to address rural issues;
- To seek community input to identify problems;
- To establish partnerships to find solutions;
- To enable partners to take action; and
- To educate the public on rural issues.

Visit the IRDC Web site at: www.in.gov/irdc

Monday, August 26, is “Indiana Day” at the conference. First Lady Judy O’Bannon and Jim Moseley, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s deputy secretary and a Hoosier from Tippecanoe County, have been invited to address the conference. Confirmed speakers are: Tom Hylton, author of *Save Our Land, Save Our Towns*; and Dr. Martin Jischke, president of Purdue University.



New generations are finding their way to the French Lick Springs Resort, a retreat once reserved for the nation’s affluent. This summer, rural development specialists will inherit the guest rooms, pleasure gardens, golf courses, spa, stable, theater, tennis courts and pools once frequented by the likes of Clark Gable and Bing Crosby.

A road trip northeast will take attendees to the town of Scottsburg, population 6,040. The Scott County seat is one rural Indiana town that has adapted to the economic development changes and patterns affecting many small communities. Scottsburg was founded as an agricultural community and grew up around the railroad. It has evolved to an industrial and manufacturing base as a national highway and interstate moved through the area.

Participants will have their choice of eight different workshops in Scottsburg dealing with economic development, downtown revitalization, community infrastructure, housing development, community partnerships, planning and leadership, community pride, and community wellness.

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LOCAL SECTOR

The Honorable William H. Graham* - Chair
Mayor, City of Scottsburg
David Hess
Elkhart County Administrator
The Honorable Richard M. Ullrich, Jr.
Mayor, City of Aurora
Chuck Andres (a)
President, St. Leon Town Council

STATE SECTOR

The Honorable Joseph E. Kernan*
Indiana Lieutenant Governor
Rob Clark
Indiana Office of the Attorney General
James Segedy
Ball State University
Michaela Kendall (a)
Indiana Department of Commerce

FEDERAL SECTOR

Robert White*
USDA Rural Development
William Shaw
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Janice Wolfe
U.S. Small Business Administration

FOR PROFIT SECTOR

John Thompson*
Midwest Engineers
James Rice, P.E.
EMC of Indiana LLC
Steven Seifert
Bonar Group
Sanjay Patel, P.E. (a)
VS Engineering

NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

Judy Gray*
Orange County Economic Development Partnership
Tom Morton
Indiana Association of Cities and Towns
Dr. David Rice
Southern Indiana Rural Development Project

LEGISLATIVE & SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Honorable Johnny Nugent (R), State Senator,
Lawrenceburg
The Honorable Richard D. Young, Jr. (D), State
Senator, Milltown
The Honorable William Friend (R), State Repre-
sentative, Macy
The Honorable Claire Leuck (D), State Represen-
tative, Fowler
Lane A. Ralph, Representing U.S. Senator Richard
Lugar's Office
Mike Edmondson, Representing U.S. Senator Evan
Bayh's Office
Bruce Paul, Representing U.S. Congressman Baron
Hill's Office
Brandt Hershman, Representing U.S. Congressman
Steve Buyer's Office
Kermit Burrous, Past Chair

IRDC STAFF

Wendy Dant Chesser, Executive Director
Laura Gibbons, IRDC, Inc./IACT Foundation

*Executive Committee (a) Alternate Member

A Message from the Executive Director

Wendy Dant Chesser

The Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC) is excited to host the NRDP Conference in French Lick! With eight working committees and more than 40 volunteers, the IRDC is planning to educate participants about

programs and issues in rural Indiana, and also provide great enter-tainment during the conference.

The theme, "Hoosier Hospitality: At Home in Indiana," indicates the IRDC's focus on providing a relaxing setting where you can learn about rural initiatives and enjoy the surroundings. The council appreciates the opportunity to host this national event and looks forward to greeting guests from Indiana and the U.S. this August.

Wendy

2002 NRDP Leadership Conference Highlights

Sunday, August 25

Registration Open

- Council Leaders' and Executive Directors' Meetings
- *Welcome to Indiana* Reception at the Wilstem Ranch

Monday, August 26

- *Indiana Day!* (One-day registration is available.) Plenary Sessions: James Moseley, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (invited); Tom Hylton, author of *Save Our Land, Save Our Towns*; and Dr. Martin Jischke, President of Purdue University. Judy O'Bannon, Indiana's First Lady is invited to make the keynote address.
- Case Study of the City of Scottsburg: Evolution of a Rural Community
- Scottsburg Celebration and Dinner
- U.S. Senator Richard Lugar (invited)

Tuesday, August 27

- Choose from 8 Mobile Workshops
- Dinner and Entertainment

Wednesday, August 28

- Keynote address: Phil Gulley, Hoosier Author and Storyteller; then choose from six concurrent sessions. The conference will adjourn at 12 noon.

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"We're proud to show how our community has adapted," says Scottsburg Mayor Bill Graham. "We've managed to stay true to our rural and agricultural roots while embracing new industry and technology," adds Graham, who also serves as chair of the IRDC.

Another day of the conference will take people to one of eight rural Indiana communities. These "mobile workshops" offer the opportunity for individuals from around the country to see some of Indiana's successful rural economic development projects and meet with the people behind them.

"We are trying to show rural success stories from southern Indiana and combine this learning

experience with an entertainment value. In Starlight, they'll see how an agricultural community backs up to a large metropolitan area," says Chuck Andres, St. Leon Town Council president, and co-chair of the mobile workshops committee.

The workshops are:

- **Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center**, a center for U.S. Navy purchasing and scientific activity is a wonderful example of how a federal facility works with surrounding communities to encourage economic and community development. Seeing this facility will verify there is more in Indiana than crops and racecars.
- **West Baden Revitalization Projects** shows how rural communities value saving existing community resources. The revitalization of the West Baden Springs National Historic Landmark and the Homestead Hotel were possible because of committed citizens developing successful strategies.
- **The Bedford Urban Enterprise Association** will guide visitors through the revitalization of its downtown area. Bedford's program seeks to improve the quality of life within the zone through economic incentives and by building public-private partnerships aimed at strengthening local capacity for economic development.



The IRDC is one of 40 state members of the NRDP.

- **Hoosier Uplands** will host a workshop in Mitchell focusing on affordable housing through rural rentals, rehabilitation and new housing. Guests will tour a renovated historic building that is now a living center and learn about its successful "Homeowner Education Program."
- **Diversity in Rural Indiana** will present guests with an understanding of how rural communities are addressing changing communities. As economics become global, the rural community must deal with immigration of laborers and the existing Amish population. A trip to the Montgomery area will provide first-hand success stories and a tour of an Amish farm.
- A visit to **Starlight** will demonstrate that a rural setting can successfully offer a unique blend of farming, business, industry and tourism without compromising the rural nature of the environment. Participants will visit the Forest Discovery Center, Joe Huber Family Farm and Koetter Woodworking.
- A trip to the **Patoka River Watershed** in Pike County will demonstrate how a rural environmental problem was approached and successfully improved. Through a grassroots coalition, citizens concerned about this watershed, contaminated by acid mine drainage from strip coal mines, developed innovative solutions, raised funds and implemented improvement plans to the environmentally impacted watershed.
- The **Southern Indiana Rural Development Project (SIRDP)** is an organization representing 34 southern Indiana counties. This workshop will showcase the organization and show how local leaders came together under SIRDP to address problems unique to their geography and culture.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Indiana community leaders to meet, network with and learn from rural development professionals around the country," says Wendy Dant Chesser, IRDC executive director. "Indiana is honored to host this national conference."

The complete conference agenda and registration materials will soon be available on the Web at www.in.gov/irdc. For further information contact: Wendy Dant Chesser, executive director, Indiana Rural Development Council, (317) 232-8776.



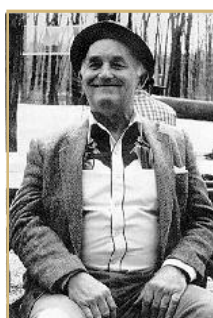
Bring Your Dancing Shoes to the 2002 NRDP Conference!

the musical traditions of rural America at an early age. A champion fiddler, Dickey also wrote many songs reflecting the variety of styles he heard during the 20's and 30's, both urban and rural. Members of his family will share his music during registration on Sunday, August 25, in the lobby of the French Lick Springs Resort.

Tim Grimm – Grimm is a critically acclaimed singer, songwriter and actor from Columbus, Ind. He will perform his folk songs at the *Welcome to Indiana Reception* at the Wilster Ranch on Sunday evening of the conference.

Even if you don't dance, you'll enjoy the music and speakers for this summer's NRDP conference in Indiana:

Lotus Dickey Reunion Band – The late Lotus Dickey grew up on a ridge-top farm south of Paoli, Ind., in the early 20th century, and learned



Conference-goers will be entertained by members of the Lotus Dickey Reunion Band.

Tom Hylton – Hylton has lived all his life in Pennsylvania cities and towns, and will address the conference on Monday, August 26. In his book *Save Our Land, Save our Towns*, Hylton shows how 12 states, from Vermont to Oregon, have initiated a new concept in government – comprehensive planning – to provide a better future for their citizens.

The Marlins – This musical family, performing after Tuesday evening's banquet, owes their talent to their father, Sleepy Marlin, who won nine international fiddling contests. The Marlins will flat-out entertain you with a repertoire that covers some impressive musical diversity, including Neil Diamond, Glenn Miller, Willie Nelson, Elvis Presley, the Beach Boys and many more!

Phil Gulley – Gulley is a Quaker pastor and writer from Danville, Ind. He earned his bachelor's degree from Marian College, where he received a D in composition, but only after promising the professor he'd never write again! His stories will delight NRDP members on Wednesday morning, August 28.



*Hylton's editorials advocating the preservation of farmland and open space in southeastern Pennsylvania won a Pulitzer Prize in 1990. Since publication of *Save Our Land* in 1995, he has given 170 slide presentations on land use planning and community building.*

New Web Site is Gateway of Information for the Disabled

TheArcLink.org is the first Web site to provide customized, specific information on various sources of assistance available to individuals with disabilities and their families.

Users can find out about national and state service systems and funding available for people with disabilities. They can learn who is eligible for various services and where the closest office is for them to apply. Family members can find out how and where to apply for federally funded

services like Social Security, Medicaid and vocational rehabilitation. They can also discover how to be an advocate and have an impact on their state and at the national level.

TheArcLink currently contains information on eight states. Eight more will be launched by summer. The site also contains links to other useful Web sites related to developmental disabilities, and national and state-specific glossaries of terms.

TheArcLink is a joint venture with The Arc of Indiana, The Arc of the United States and the Stone Belt Arc of Bloomington. Funds to originate the site were provided through a grant from SBC/Ameritech. Visit the organization's Web site at www.TheArcLink.org for more information.

Economic Development Progress in Warren County

How does a rural community get started in economic development? Ask Warren County — an area on the fast track!

Warren County is located in western Indiana along the Illinois border. Rich

in prime farmland, this sparsely populated county of 8,500 residents includes four incorporated towns. Each one has conducted separate economic development efforts. A downturn in the area economy caused county leaders and elected officials to look for innovative ways to attract new business ventures to Warren County.

The Center for Research on Learning and Technology of Indiana University had already conducted a needs assessment of Warren County. It identified these key points:

- A shift from agriculture to services and industry,
- A decline in the rate of growth of personal income, and
- An inability to attract and retain college educated persons.

The Warren County Community Foundation (WCCF) wanted to address these issues, but they needed to know where to begin. In 2001, the foundation contacted the Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC) to request assistance.

Just one year ago a small team of IRDC members traveled to Warren County to meet with leaders and citizens interested in promoting countywide economic development planning. IRDC's team included representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, the Indiana Department of Commerce's Business Development Division, and the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Local attendees at the meeting included broad representation from Warren County organizations, business owners, elected officials and residents.

Each IRDC team member helped Warren County residents define their concerns and brainstorm about actions to address those concerns. Local

leaders were introduced to the types of organizations and programs that could assist them in their economic development efforts. Although the team did not prioritize action steps for the community, it provided ideas and examples of how similar suggestions have worked in other rural communities and counties.

Warren County's economic development success is evident in what residents and officials have accomplished in the past 12 months:

- County leaders established the Warren County Local Economic Development Organization (WCLEDO). This group serves as the single point of contact for economic development activities by supporting existing businesses in the county, coordinating business attraction efforts and addressing workforce development efforts.
- The WCLEDO hired Carol Clark as its first executive director. Clark's part-time position is coordinated with the efforts of the Warren County Community Foundation.
- On April 11, 2002, just one year after the IRDC's visit to Warren County, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, Indiana's commissioner of Agriculture, announced an economic development project in Warren County. This project combines state and federal funding sources to support a \$5 million expansion of an existing industry by extending water and sewer utilities to the industrial park. The total award from the State of Indiana and USDA was \$553,000.

Good things are happening in Warren County. For more information on Warren County's progress, contact Carol Clark at (765) 762-6055.



Residents and officials are excited about the goals they've set under the new Warren County Local Economic Development



Bridge Over Troubled Wastewater

by Jacqui Bauer,
Indiana Rural
Community
Assistance Program

A project to expand small community solutions

In these tough financial times, Indiana is like many states: lots of needs and not enough resources to take care of them all.

And like many other places, the needs of rural communities — particularly those involving wastewater disposals — tend to fall at the bottom of the priority list.

Small communities have a limited ability to successfully complete projects addressing their wastewater problems. While financial assistance programs have enabled many larger communities to address these issues, it is

becoming increasingly evident that small communities, particularly those with fewer than 200 households, face unique challenges that make their problems

more difficult to eliminate. In particular, these small communities face the barriers of insufficient resources, high per-household cost, a lack of political infrastructure necessary to pursue funding, and limited awareness of the need for wastewater treatment.

Without a long-term plan to address these barriers, Indiana and most other states could find their ability to complete effective projects in smaller communities increasingly impaired.

The Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) is a nationwide network of non-profit entities providing free technical assistance to rural communities. Indiana's RCAP recently applied for and was awarded a Section 104(b)(3) Watershed Management Grant.



The Rural Community Assistance Program provides help to small communities in dealing with wastewater problems.

The funds will be used to develop a comprehensive plan to address small community wastewater problems in Indiana. Hopefully such a plan would benefit rural communities across the country as well.

The goal is to develop, implement and demonstrate “new concepts or requirements that will improve the effectiveness of the NPDES permit program.” The Indiana project proposes to accomplish this by providing the state with a plan to eliminate illegal wastewater discharges from extremely small communities, which are largely unregulated by the NPDES program.

The project will be carried out in two phases. Phase One will focus on researching and developing methods to reduce financial and administrative barriers to small communities as they try to implement wastewater solutions.

During the second phase, the Indiana RCAP will initiate pilot wastewater projects in several communities to serve as models for the measures identified in Phase One. For example, a closely-knit, highly active community might serve as a potential model for a pilot self-help project. A community with available land and suitable soil might be selected for a pilot project to assess the feasibility of alternative technologies.

To assist in their research, the Indiana RCAP is interested in nationwide input on the following questions:

1. Are there subsidy programs that you know of to assist low-income and/or elderly customers with sewer and/or water bills? How are these structured and funded?
2. What creative cost-reduction methods are you aware of that could be applied to water and wastewater projects?
3. In your opinion, what factors make the difference between communities that complete successful wastewater projects and those that do not?

The results of this research will be published in April 2004. Individuals with information on any of these topics or with questions about the project are encouraged to contact Jacqui Bauer, Indiana Rural Community Assistance Program, (800) 382-9895, or via email at jbauer@incap.org.

Leadership Spotlight — Members Selected for 10th Ag Leadership Program

Twenty-four of Indiana's top men and women in the agricultural industry have been selected to participate in the 10th class of the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program (ALP). The Indiana Agricultural Leadership Institute sponsors the program.

Nearly 240 participants have graduated from the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program since it began in 1984. During the two-year program, the ALP's newest members will attend 12 seminars held throughout Indiana, travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with national leaders, and spend 10 to 14 days in a foreign country studying international issues.

Class 10 Members include:

- Todd Applegate, West Lafayette, Purdue University
- Janice Bacon, Monrovia, Morgan County Commissioner
- Rebecca Carroll, McCordsville, Countrymark Cooperative, Inc.
- Wendy Dant Chesser, Indianapolis, Indiana Rural Development Council
- Duane Davis, Modoc, Doubletree Swine
- Janelle Deatsman, Milford, Maple Leaf Farms
- Willard Everhart III, Seymour, Rose Acre Farms
- Jerry Fankhauser, Jr., Lafayette, Purdue University
- Christopher Fenner, Edinburgh, Indiana Farm Bureau Inc.
- Jeffrey Gaither, Washington, Perdue Farms, Inc.
- Anne Hazlett, Virginia, U.S. House of Representatives, Agriculture Committee
- Jack Haeffling, Indianapolis, Retired
- David Hermes, Vincennes, Perdue Farms, Inc.
- Tom Knollman, Liberty, Knollman Farm Partnership
- Michael Kopp, Indianapolis, Indiana State Board of Animal Health
- Julie Lester, Lafayette, Purdue University
- Matthew Mace, Brazil, Grower's Cooperative

- William Malle, Wawaka, Malle Farms
- Todd Masten, Greencastle, Midland Coop
- Michele Payne-Knoper, Lebanon, MPK Enterprises
- Barbara Robertson, Rensselaer, Saint Joseph's College
- Charles Scott Sheets, Bourbon, Sheets Farms
- Chris Wooley, Indianapolis, Dow AgroSciences
- Christopher Zollman, Warsaw, USDA-Farm Service Agency

Class 10 participants will attend their first session July 12-14, 2002, at the St. Meinrad Arch Abby in St. Meinrad, Ind. This session will provide a



program orientation for class members including discussions on leadership, leadership qualities and applications, goal setting and understanding personality styles. Through study and exposure to critical issues, participants will be challenged to meet the evolving political, economic, social and cultural needs of society.

The Indiana Agricultural Leadership Institute, Inc. works to improve Indiana's agricultural and rural community by fostering leadership development and facilitating communication among diverse interests on agricultural, food and natural resources issues. A non-profit organization, the institute conducts the Agricultural Leadership Program through financial contributions and grants from individuals, corporations and associations representing the diverse agricultural industry.

For more information on the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program contact Beth Archer, executive director, at (317) 745-0947, or via email at ialiba@aol.com.



Rural Telecoms Voice Support for Broad-band Bill

Leveling the playing field for access to high-speed Internet service is the reason executives from 62 rural telephone companies recently wrote to two U.S. Senators. John B. Breaux, D-Louisiana,

and Don Nickles, R-Oklahoma, cosponsored Senate Bill 2430, which would direct the Federal Communications Commission to put telephone companies on equal regulatory footing with their cable counterparts for high-speed Internet services.

Telephone companies, notably the regional Bells, are restricted by the 1996 telecommunications law (PL 104-104) from offering broadband services until they have demonstrated they have opened their local markets to competition. They also must lease their lines

to rivals at FCC-regulated rates. Cable providers, which have almost 70 percent of the broadband market, are not subject to such regulations. The rural telephone companies said the bill would help to lower their costs, which are on average higher than the rest of the industry.

The measure is opposed by Senate Commerce Chairman Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., who has introduced competing legislation (S 2448) that would authorize billions in grants and loan guarantees to speed broadband deployment in rural and underserved areas.

A complete summary of the legislation is available on the Web at www.connectusa.org/issues/summary.



Current regulations on broadband are imposed only on telephone companies and not on cable monopolies that dominate the market. Rural telecommunications companies say this limits competition and increases prices to consumers in rural areas.



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IRDC Rural Partners

The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday, September 3, 2002.

Submit articles to the IRDC at the address above or by e-mail to Wendy Dant Chesser at wdant@commerce.state.in.us.